

ABSTRACT

To recognise characters in a character set developed for magnetic ink character recognition (MICR), the characters are optically imaged as a matrix of pixels. Pixel values in each of a plurality of adjacent parallel lines of pixels in the matrix are then summed to obtain a line total for each line. The lines of pixels may be chosen to parallel a height dimension of the characters in order to eliminate skew. Thus, in the absence of skew, the lines will simply be columns of the matrix of pixels. Line totals may be compared with line total templates. Each line total template is characteristic of a character in the character set.

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